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east, was met with. These observations show that the southeast trade extends well to the north of the ordinary zone of the equatorial belt of calms. A hot wind, known by the Arabian name of *chihili*, was found to have very unpleasant effects upon human beings, drying the throat, and causing an intense thirst and extreme irritability. Many desert whirlwinds were carefully observed in the Aïr region, and are well described (pp. 82-83), but it is rather surprising to find that the whirls were always clockwise. Observations made by the present reviewer on the deserts of Peru failed to show any rule in the matter of the direction of whirling. "Tornadoes"—*i. e.*, dry thunderstorms—with wind and without rain, were observed several times. The thunderstorms of the Aïr region showed the characteristic tropical regularity of occurrence, "toujours vers 3 heures, et jamais après 5 heures de soir." Dew was noted fourteen times, and hail once, on July 17, at Aoudéras (Aïr).

As to rainfall, the observations indicate that the tropical rains seldom reach the Aïr district, and then are only scattering, irregular, and uncertain showers, although these very showers may cause marked rises in the streams. Nevertheless, thunderstorm rains are much commoner here than in the northern Sahara, the vegetation is denser, and arborescent vegetation is represented by more varieties. Pages 98-157 are taken up with tables of meteorological data, and there are also reproductions of several thermograph and hygrograph curves, illustrating (1) certain days with high temperatures; (2) days with thunderstorms; and (3) days with abnormally high nocturnal humidity. It is to be noted that the selection of type curves of this kind, showing *unusual* conditions, seems to us a distinct gain over the usual practice of reproducing only *normal* curves for a month or a year. The discussion of climatology is altogether too much concerned with the averages, and does not give nearly enough attention to the extreme or abnormal values of the various weather elements, nor to the general weather controls under which these extreme or abnormal values occur. Those who are interested in African climatology will need to make a careful study of this volume of the *Mission Saharienne*.

R. DEC. W.

*Researches on the Past and Present History of the Earth's Atmosphere,
including the Latest Discoveries and their Practical Applications.*
By Dr. Thomas Lamb Phipson. 8vo. London, 1901. Pp. xii, 194.

In the case of the volume before us the title is much too ambitious for the book. We have here a rather rambling, pleasantly-written, and fairly instructive series of chapters on the earth's

atmosphere, much of what is written being the result of the author's own observations. It cannot truly be said that all "the latest discoveries" are included, but the scientific reader, and many unscientific readers also, will find the book interesting. As a "popular" account of some of the relations of man to the atmosphere the volume will find a place, but it is neither a well-digested nor a complete discussion of the subject of its title.

R. DEC. W.

Klimatographie von Niederösterreich. Von J. Hann. Herausgegeben von der Direktion der K. K. Zentral-Anstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik. 4to. Vienna, 1904. pp. 104. Pl. I.

The acknowledged master of climatology has written on the climate of his own country. The present volume is the first of a series of reports to be issued as rapidly as possible under the auspices of the Austrian Central Meteorological Institute of Vienna, dealing with the climates of the different portions of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. It was as fitting as it was natural that Hann, who stands at the head of the world's workers in meteorological science, should be chosen to prepare the first volume in the series. This he has written with the thoroughness, the accuracy, and the systematic arrangement of details which distinguish all his work. As an authoritative study of the climatology of lower Austria; as a model for the remaining volumes of the same set, and of monographs on the climate of other countries; as an additional proof of the debt which meteorology owes to its master, this report has a value which it is impossible to over-estimate.

R. DEC. W.

The United States, with an Excursion into Mexico. Handbook for Travellers. By Karl Baedeker. ciii and 660 pp., 25 Maps and 35 Plans. Third Revised Edition. Karl Baedeker, Leipzig, 1904.

This guidebook meets the needs of foreign visitors to the United States so well, and has been so useful to our own tourists at home, that this new edition, bringing it up to date, will be welcomed. Fourteen new maps and plans have been added. The excellent maps in the Baedeker guidebooks are especially noteworthy when they illustrate our own pleasure resorts and show places, because, although they are made in Germany, they are based upon the Government topographic surveys wherever possible, show topography clearly, indicate footpaths and roads as well as railways, and make the special points of interest stand out.